THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI):(a) to (d) Retail prices of 14 essential commodities including wheat, sugar and vanaspati are monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs on a regular basis. According to their information, prices of wheat, sugar and vanaspati have not gone up at an alarming rate. As such, the question of food processing industries being forced to rethink the production on this ground does not arise.

India as illegal drug transit

1661. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has come out with a report which has included India as one of the major drug transit and illicit drug producing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) India has been identifying as one of the major illicit drug producing and/or drug transit countries in the US Department of State's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for the year 2003.

(b) An comprehensive report containing overall counter narcotics performance of India for the year 2004 has been/is being furnished to the U.S. authority for annual certification by the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance).

Authorised Blood Banks

1662. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the source and amount of blood collected by Blood Banks in the country with details of authorised Blood Banks;